

Message Text

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ACTION SY-05

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P 091040Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1577

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST PRIORITY

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SOFIA 1675

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ASEC

SUBJECT: SOFIA ACR

REF: (A) ATHENS 7794; (B) ATHENS 7791

1. IN REPLY TO REF B, COURIER ACCOMPANIED SEALED TRUCK COULD BE INSPECTED EITHER BY CUSTOMS AT KULATA BORDER CROSSING OR SOFIA CUSTOMS. INSPECTION WOULD ENTAIL VERIFICATION OF MANIFEST WITH CARGO, A NORMAL PROCEDURE FOR ANY COURIER ACCOMPANIED SHIPMENT. WE ARE NOT ABLE TO CONFIRM WHETHER CUSTOMS INSPECTION WILL OCCUR AT BORDER CROSSING AS THIS WILL DEPEND ON VOLUME OF TRAFFIC AT BORDER AND CAPRICE CUSTOMS INSPECTORS. CERTAINLY, CLEARING AT BORDER PREFERABLE AS TRUCK COULD PROCEED DIRECTLY TO CHANCERY FOR UNLOADING.

2. HOWEVER, IF CUSTOMS CLEARANCE IS NOT ACCOMPLISHED AT BORDER CROSSING, TRUCK MUST PROCEED TO CUSTOMS IN SOFIA FOR REQUIRED FORMALITIES. BEAR IN MIND THAT SOFIA CUSTOMS IS OPEN 7:30 A.M. TO 1200 AND 1300 TO 1530 MONDAY TO THURSDAY, 0730 TO 1200 ON FRIDAY, AND CLOSED SATURDAY AND SUNDAY. THEREFORE AN EARLY MORNING ARRIVAL AT BORDER CROSSING ESSENTIAL IN EVENT CUSTOMS FORMALITIES NOT ACCOMPLISHED AND TRUCK MUST PROCEED TO SOFIA FOR CLEARANCE. APPROXIMATE
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DRIVING TIME KULATA BORDER CROSSING-SOFIA CUSTOMS

FIVE HOURS. IF TRUCK ARRIVES AFTER
1500 HOURS AT SOFIA CUSTOMS IT WILL BE HELD UNTIL
FOLLOWING MORNING FOR CUSTOMS CLEARANCE.

3. IN CONNECTION WITH CRATING OLD ACR, WE HAVE
VERY LIMITED MATERIALS, MANPOWER AND SPACE FOR THIS
OPERATION. WORKSHOP IN CELLAR DIFFICULT TO SECURE
AND RELATIVELY SMALL. THEREFORE COULD BE UNTILIZED ONLY
ON WEEKENDS OR EVENINGS DURING ABSENCE OF LOCAL EMPLOYEES.
SUITABLE SECURE STORAGE FACILITES IN CHANCERY NON-EXISTENT,
THEREFORE DEFINITE PROBLEMS EXIST FOR CRATING AND
STORING OF OLD ACR. PREFERABLE BOXING MATERIAL
BE CARRIED FROM ATHENS, OLD UNIT BE BOXED IN SOFIA
AND TRANSPORTED TO ATHENS FOR DISPOSAL.

4. HOTEL RESERVATIONS HAVE BEEN OBTAINED FOR
FOLLOWING:

THOMAS P. KANSAS, FROM 16 AUG TO 3 SEPT
PAUL TUBBS, FROM 16 AUG TO 3 SEPT
NICKOLAS KRIKAS, FROM 16 AUG TO 18 SEPT
JAMES SMYTHE, FROM 18 AUG TO 3 SEPT
THOMAS MARICLE, FROM 18 AUG TO 3 SEPT
ANTHONY HOESCHE, FROM 18 AUG TO 3 SEPT
CASPER PELCZYNSKI, 26 AND 27 AUG

5. WE MUST HAVE FIRM ARRIVAL DATES ASAP IN ORDER TO
MAKE ADJUSTMENTS TO ABOVE RESERVATIONS AS HOTEL
SPACE VERY DIFFICULT TO OBTAIN. URGENT YOU
INFORM POST PRIORITY CABLE OF ANY CHANGES.
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